

IN THE CLAIMS

1. **(Original claim)** A process for preparing a polyethylene resin composition having a multimodal molecular weight distribution that comprises the steps of:

(a) providing from 10 to 90 weight percent of a first metallocene-produced linear low density polyethylene (mLLDPE) resin having a density of from 0.920 to 0.940 g/cm³ and a melt index MI₂ of from 0.1 to 10 dg/min;

(b) providing from 90 to 10 weight percent of a second bi- or multi-modal polyethylene resin prepared either with a Ziegler-Natta or with a metallocene catalyst system, said polyethylene having a density ranging from 0.940 to 0.970 g/cm³ and a melt index MI₂ of from 0.05 to 10 dg/min;

(c) physically blending together the first and second polyethylenes to form a polyethylene resin having a multimodal molecular weight distribution, a density ranging from 0.935 to 0.960 g/cm³ and a MI₂ of from 0.2 to 0.9 dg/min.

2. **(Original claim)** The process according to claim 1 wherein the first mLLDPE has a density of not more than 0.935 g/cm³.

3. **(Currently amended)** The process of claim 1 wherein the first mLLDPE has a melt flow index MI₂ of from 0.5 to 5 dg/min.

4. **(Original claim)** The process according to claim 1 wherein the second polyethylene resin has a bimodal molecular weight distribution.

5. **(Original claim)** The process according to claim 4 wherein the second polyethylene resin is produced with a Ziegler-Natta catalyst system.

6. **(Original claim)** The process according to claim 1 wherein the amount of the first mLLDPE is of from 25 to 75 weight percent and the amount of the second polyethylene resin is of from 25 to 75 weight percent.

7. **(Original claim)** The process according to claim 6 wherein the amount of each polyethylene component in the blend is of about 50 weight percent.

8. **(Original claim)** The process according to claim 1 wherein the metallocene catalyst component used to prepare the mLLDPE is ethylene bis(4,5,6,7-tetrahydro-1-indenyl) zirconium dichloride.

Cancel claims 9 – 12.

Please add the following claims:

13. **(New claim)** The method of claim 1 wherein the melt index MI_2 of said first polyethylene resin is greater than the melt index MI_2 of said second polyethylene resin.

14. **(New claim)** The method of claim 13 wherein said blended melt polyethylene resin has a density within the range of 0.940 – 0.950 g/cm³.

15. **(New claim)** The process of claim 15 wherein said blended polyethylene resin has a density of about 0.945 g/cm³.

16. **(New claim)** The process of claim 1 wherein said blended polyethylene resin has a melt index MI_2 within the range of 0.4 – 0.7 dg/min.

17. **(New claim)** The process of claim 16 wherein the melt index MI_2 of said blended polyethylene resin is about 0.5 dg/min.